

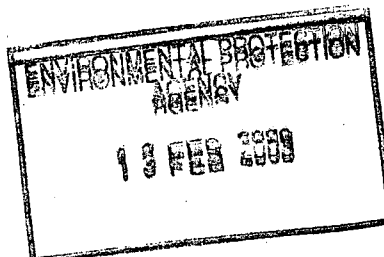


Comhshaol, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government



14 January 2009

Our Ref: E2008/177
Your Ref: PO705-02



Mr Joe Reilly
Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
EPA
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford

Re: IPPC Licence Application – Knockhall Farms Ltd, Knockhall, Rooskey, Co. Roscommon

A Chara,

We refer to the application for an IPPC licence in relation to the above-proposed development. Outlined below are the nature conservation recommendations of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The proposed development is not situated within any designated SAC, SPA or NHA. However the development is situated within the catchments of Lough Bofin Lough Boderg pNHA (site code 1642) and the Kilglass and Grange Loughs pNHA (site code 0608). Please attached site synopsis for the above pNHAs.

The Dept of the Environment Heritage and Local Government have no objection in principle to the proposal. However it is recommended that adequate controls should be in place, in order to ensure that any likely pollution matter (effluents, discharges etc) cannot enter the water system - in particular in relation to any storage and land spreading of effluent. Good agriculture and environmental practices and EPA guidelines, if adhered to, should minimise any likely pollution or deterioration of water quality in the pNHAs resulting from this operation.

Mise le meas,

Mary Boothman

Development Applications Unit



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SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KILGLASS AND GRANGE LOUGHS

SITE CODE: 000608

Kilglass and Grange Lough (Roscommon) is a group of lakes in the River Shannon catchment, joined to the main river by a short channel into Lough Boderg 6 km west of Dromod, Co. Leitrim. They are characterised by extensive areas of reedswamps narrowing the lakes and cutting off smaller ones. Lough Kilglass in particular is very calcareous with a sandy shoreline (at least in part) and is separated from Grange Lough by a long cut through infilling marsh. They are the lowest points of the two main tributaries of the Shannon in Roscommon - the Scramogue and Owenur Rivers. They are also situated on what is considered to be the pre-Ice Age course of the River Shannon.

The Loughs were briefly visited in 1993. In addition to the reedswamps and associated freshwater marshes, an extensive area of very wet grassland on peat was visited (2 km south of the bridge at Carranadoe) with such plant species as Star Sedge (*Carex echinata*) and Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) with large patches of Greater Tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*) and scattered Willows (*Salix* spp.) which in places become wet woodland and scrubland. Some isolated stretches of shoreline are said to be very botanically rich, throughout the lakes.

The mean of peat counts of winter waterfowl at Kilglass Lough (1984-1987) recorded Mute Swan (3), Greenland White-fronted Goose (99), Wigeon (186), Teal (210), Tufted Duck (193), Goldeneye (40), Golden Plover (83), Lapwing (243). This is a very high density for a relatively small lake. These lakes are also part of a group of Roscommon lakes which between them have Nationally important numbers of winter waterfowl and movement between lakes. In 1974 a varied group of breeding birds was reported.

There is an exceptional abundance of the invertebrate *Corixa fallenoides* a type of Water Boatman peculiar to Central and Western Ireland, and the likelihood of other invertebrates of restricted distribution (reported in 1974).

Kilglass and Grange Loughs have an unusual ecological and geomorphological position in relation to the main Shannon lakes. There are extensive areas of remote reedbeds. Kilglass Loughs has high numbers of varied winter waterfowl, unusual for a relatively small size and is very calcareous.

7.6.2006

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH BODERG/LOUGH BOFIN

SITE CODE: 001642

Lough Boderg/Lough Bofin is a complex of connected Upper Shannon lakes which also includes Lough Scannell, and lie on the border between Cos Roscommon and Leitrim. L. Bofin and S. Scannell is close to Dromod, Co. Leitrim and L. Boderg lies about 4km south of Drumsna. It is connected by a short channel to Kilglass/Grange Lough.

Apart from the aquatic habitats of the lake itself, the main terrestrial and semi-aquatic habitats are woodland on the lakeshore which grades down to a stony lakeshore with a well developed typical Shannon flora, and reedswamps.

Most of the woodland occurs as a narrow fringe (sometimes widening) around a good deal of the lakes particularly in the Dromod area and the eastern shores of L. Boderg (north and south of its link with L. Bofin). Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) often predominates with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Willows (*Salix* spp.) behind. The limit of flooding occurs well inside this strip indicated by flotsam of dead Reed stems. This woodland has been described from the Dromod lakeshore in 1973 as being quite open with a well-developed rich ground flora dominated by a Black Bog Rush-Glaucous Sedge (*Schoenus nigricans* - *Carex flacca*) sward with such plants as Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*) and Yellow Sedge (*Carex flava* agg.). The Spindle Tree (*Euonymus europaeus*) is also recorded. Derrygrasten Wood, on the peninsula between L. Scannell and L. Bofin is described (in 1973) as a managed Ash-Hazel wood with a very rich ground flora which includes the Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*) a scarce plant parasitic on the roots of trees in old woodland. It is thus probably part of the original Oak woodland ground flora. Further south on this peninsula (around Rabbit and Otter Islands) where abundant Spindle Tree (*Euonymus europaeus*), Geulder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*) are present. The scarce and localized plant Marsh Stitchwort (*Stellaria palustris*) is reported here also. Vertical aerial photographs taken in 1993 confirm that this woodland fringe is still present.

A similar habitat on L. Boderg (on the north facing peninsular, across the linking channel, south of Derrycarne Wood was visited during the 1993 survey and the local plant Pale Sedge (*Carex pallescens*) is present. Bird's Foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) is noticeably abundant on tussocks of Black Bog Rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) and Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*).

The stony lakeshore here contains a typical 'Shannon Flora' with abundant submerged Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*), Yellow Sedge (*Carex flava* agg.), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), Water Hemlock (*Circuta virosa*) among the stones. A small patch of Water Germander (*Teucrium scordium*) is present here also. Water Germander is a scarce species almost confined

to the River Shannon lakes. These stones become completely colonised by a species-rich sward at higher levels.

The other main extensive habitat briefly visited in 1993 at this site is an area of very old cut-away in the north east of L. Boderg creating an environment which floods in winter and contains widespread Bog Myrtle (*Myrica gale*) with locally abundant Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*), surrounded by deep water drains. This area is bordered on its east side by fields with dominant Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), and on its western side by a hill of mineral soil which becomes an island (with a causeway) during floods.

The Internationally Important Greenland White-fronted Goose frequents a number of improved fields around this site but these are so diffuse that most have not been included in the site.

Lough Boderg/Lough Bofin is a complex of Upper Shannon lakes with a long convoluted shoreline containing many areas of wild and typical limestone terrestrial and semi-aquatic shoreline habitats.

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